

Anointing of the Sick

So who may receive this sacrament?

Any baptized Catholic who is dangerously ill due to sickness, injury, or old age may receive the Anointing of the Sick, even though there is no apparent danger of death. The sacrament should be received when the sick person is best able to profit from it, and not be delayed until the person is at the point of death. Sick children, too, may receive this sacrament if they are old enough to understand what the sacrament is about. Usually this is at the age of reason; seven years of age. It can even be given to someone who is unconscious. The elderly who are in a weakened condition are also encouraged by the Church to receive Anointing, even though no dangerous illness is present.

(from the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1514)

The celebration of the sacrament includes the following elements: the “priests of the Church,” in silence, lay hands on the sick; they pray over them in the faith of the Church; they anoint them with blessed oil. With faith in God’s grace and power, we hope for the forgiveness of our sins, the healing of our illnesses and we receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which renews our life of grace received at Baptism.

Even if you are not in need of this sacrament, please come and pray for those will receive it and join in the heavenly hosts to praise the goodness of our God!